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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/637,806	08/11/2000	Douglas W. Versaw	S123	7708

7590

12/30/2002

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EXAMINER

BOEHLER, ANNE MARIE M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3611

DATE MAILED: 12/30/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/637,806

Applicant(s)

VERSAW, DOUGLAS W.

Examiner

Anne Marie M Boehler

Art Unit

3611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 5-7 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claims 5 and 6, the semicolon “;” should be a period “.”.

In claim 7, lines 7-9, “the height difference” and “the front hitch” lack clear antecedent in the claims. Appropriate correction is required.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

3. Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Spiese.

Spiese shows a motorcycle hitch assembly with first and second side members 12, 13, attached to opposite sides of the rear motorcycle frame and having a cross member 11 which connects the side members and which supports a hitch mechanism (ball hitch). The side members are attached outside the fender S. A socket T forms an extension member, as broadly recited in the claim, which connects the hitch mechanism to the trailer tongue. A nut removably attaches the ball hitch.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Alford.

Alford shows a motorcycle hitch assembly with first and second side members 30, 32, removably attached to the motorcycle frame. A cross member 35 interconnects the side members and supports a ball hitch 18. The side members fit inside the fender. The ball hitch is removably connected to the cross member via a releasable attachment 26 and/or by a removable nut 22.

5. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kauffman.

Kauffman shows, in Figure 4, an extension piece 22 for a horizontal trailer tongue 40. The extension piece includes a front attachment 56 for removable connection to a hitch mechanism and a rear attachment 45b connectable to the trailer tongue. The extension has a height difference between its front and rear attachments, which, when installed, equals the height difference between the tow hitch and the trailer tongue.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bruhn and McIntosh show height adjusting extensions for trailer hitches.

Miller, Ellington, Springer, Berner, Schafer, Hawes and Peplin each show an extension for a bicycle trailer.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anne Marie M Buehler whose telephone number is 703-308-0422. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00, Monday-Thursday, and alternate Fridays,.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on 703-308-0629. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9325 for regular communications and 703-872-09327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

 12/10/02

Anne Marie M. Boehler
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3611

amb
December 10, 2002